



Ripley Town Council

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Contact: Hannah Curzon - Town Clerk

Derbyshire Council of the Year 2020 & 2018
Highly Commended 2019, 2022 & 2023



MINUTES of Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 5.30pm RIPLEY TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Ripley Town Council, Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley, DE5 3BT.

In attendance; Cllrs: C Bailey, A Burslem, L Cox, M Hawkins, P. Moss, and P Weaving.
Also: H. Curzon (Town Clerk) and B. Farnsworth (Community Engagement Officer)
Plus: Mr. Chris Howarth – Head of Ripley St John's Primary School.

AGENDA

RESOLVED that Cllr. Bailey was elected as Chair of this meeting in the absence of Cllr. Holmes.

111125/1. To Receive Apologies for Absence – Cllr Holmes.

111125/2. Variation of Order of Business – None required.

111125/3. Declaration of Members Interests – None declared.

111125/4. Public speaking
None.

1111925/5. Discuss Ripley St. John's Primary School Community Arts Project to be presented by Mr. Chris Howarth (Headteacher).

Mr. Howarth updated the committee on arrangements for this community art project. He has been liaising with Graphwork, who will be commissioned to paint the artwork of the side of a building in Ripley Town Centre, once money is secured and permission given from the property owner. On 21st November 2025, local schools involved in the project are meeting to look at the artwork and what else should be included in the artwork of local historical interest, for example, Sir Barnes Wallis.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that Ripley Town Council offer support with seeking and applying for financial grants for the project.

111125/6. Discuss the Ripley Remembrance Parade on Sunday 9th November 2025.

The Town Clerk reported that the parade and service were extremely well attended by the local community. The Air Cadet band were a very welcome addition to the parade. Some tweaks will be made to arrangements for next year, including having barriers in the Coop car park to prevent vehicles trying to exit the car park onto Derby Road, causing a potential health and safety hazard to people waiting in the parade line. Also coning off lay-bys throughout the town centre to stop vehicles from parking in the for the duration of the road closure. The Ripley and District Royal British Legion were satisfied with how the commemoration went. We are awaiting feedback from All Saints Church. The council posted the photos and videos of the parade on our social media channels, to which we have had a great interaction from the community. The RBL will let us know the total amount raised from the Ripley Poppy Appeal in due course. The poppies on the railings at Ripley Town Hall will be coming down next week and will be put up again in 2026 for the next Remembrance.

NOTED

111125/7. Discuss the Ripley Christmas Market and Lights Switch on 23rd November 2025.

The Community Engagement Officer gave an update on plans for this event. The original provider of the Carousel cancelled this week, but luckily, we have been able to secure another Carousel from the Showmen's Guild. From 12 noon until 12.30pm, will be a quiet time at the event, to allow neurodiverse people to attend with little noise. It was explained that there will be dancing and live musical performances throughout the event this year. He asked volunteers from the committee to let him know when they are available to manage the Ripley Town Council gazebo on the day.

NOTED

111125/8. Discuss the 2026 Garden and Allotment Competition and possible changes to entry requirements.

The Town Clerk explained that feedback from entrants this year and the Coop who support the event by providing prizes and host the presentation in their Ripley store, was that it seems to be the same people winning first prize each year which is putting people off entering the competition.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that the rules for this competition are changed so that anyone who came first in any of the categories in the previous year, cannot enter the competition the following year. To also bring the judging of the competition forward from the end of July each year to mid-June, to enable judges to see the gardens and allotments in full bloom.

111125/9. Discuss collaborative working with The Ripley Academy School and select a winner for their Christmas Social Media artwork competition.

The Town Clerk explained that herself and the Community Engagement Officer met with Mrs. Stone, an art teacher at the school recently. They discussed the school having a Ripley Heritage Postcard design competition in February half term in 2026, a photography competition in the summer of 2026, and having a section in the Town Council newsletter of a student to write an article to update the community on events happening in the school, projects they are working on, or recent celebrations and achievements of their students.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that the picture designed by a student called Kayla in Year 9 is chosen as the winner of the competition. Her design will be used as the Town Council's Facebook cover image and printed on the carol sheet for the Carol Service at the Ripley Christmas Lights Switch on, on 23rd November 2025 and for her to be invited to assist the Mayor in switching on the Christmas lights.

111125/10. Discuss the 2026 Ripley Well Dressing

The Town Clerk reported that she had recently met with Chrissie from The Old Farm Bus and Chrissie has offered for the attendees at The Old Farm Bus to design and create the 2026 Well Dressing.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that Ripley Town Council provide the equipment and materials to enable The Old Farm Bus to create the 2026 Ripley Well Dressing.

111125/11. Date of the next meeting: 5pm on Thursday 15th January 2026.

111125/10. Meeting Closed: 18:29.

The date for the next monthly Town Council Meeting is Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Ripley Town Hall.